

Letter from H. H. Goodnow to Alexander Graham Bell, March 23, 1915

7 Boston, Mass., March 23, 1915. Mr. Alexander Graham Bell, 1331 Connecticut Ave., Washington, D. C. Dear Sir:—

Pardon liberty. March 18th I was called to the office of John A. Humphreys. He read copy of a letter written to you which he stated as he remembered is what I told him some years ago; also your reply dated March 16.

You may remember my friend, Henry Stumpkey, who at that time had a small eating house with a few rooms called the "Gem", where you had been staying, in Exeter Pl. off Chauncy St. running through to Bedford St., at the same time was a partner of the Crawford House, Boston.

Mr. Stumpkey asked if you went to New York with me. I said you did telling him our conversation on the train. I though then I told him the truth. Will you kindly note facts? At that time I was running the Wagner Sleeping Car between New York and Boston, by Shore Line. I went to the ticket office from my diagram. Samuel Otis, ticket clerk, said that there is a man walking up and down the corridor with his hands back of him who wants to speak to you, pointing him out to me at the same time. Going to him he had once introduced himself giving the full name of Alexander Graham Bell saying he must be in New York on important business the next morning, that if I would take him through he would send me for R. R. fare and sleeper before 12 A. M. the next day. I took him to New York. The following morning before 12 A. M. I received money with note of thanks.

Between Mansfield and Providence the man told me of the trouble in disposing of his stock offering to give me 100 shares of stock for \$300.00, which he advised me to take, but I did not do so.

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Either I was deceived by an imposter and for many years watching the great success of your enterprise, regretting I did not take the 100 shares of stock, or you long ago forgot such a trifle favor. My excuse in asking you to read this is to vindicate the only thing I have not lost—honor.

Mr. Humphreys knowing my misfortune in losing what little I had two years ago this coming August by the sudden death of a friend whom I trusted, thought through your great influence would help me to a position I could fill, and I might be able to pull through to the end, and say to you, Mr. Bell, that this is the absolute truth.

Sincerely, H H Goodnow 69 Chestnut St., Boston, Mass.